

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964
Farms number..	30 504	31 123	35 289	36 431	40 357	42 710	46 381	48 836
Land in farms acres..	39 359 346	39 438 144	40 336 869	40 206 005	41 702 370	42 387 424	43 117 831	42 717 360
Average size of farm acres..	1 290	1 267	1 143	1 104	1 033	992	930	875
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	512 734	422 936	366 475	486 939	360 902	193 574	87 222	58 450
Average per acre dollars..	401	335	319	439	347	195	94	67
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ .. \$1,000..	3 415 776	2 715 228	2 734 073	3 063 883	2 589 191	1 635 670	829 187	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	112 015	87 290	77 505	84 156	64 218	39 205	18 215	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	545	785	876	1 121	1 048	981	1 285	417
10 to 49 acres	1 420	1 264	1 596	1 140	902	773	721	776
50 to 179 acres	3 573	2 945	3 025	3 178	3 564	3 411	3 441	3 085
180 to 499 acres	5 459	4 985	6 148	6 577	7 901	9 175	10 685	13 159
500 to 999 acres	5 867	6 714	8 637	9 756	11 774	13 249	15 749	18 191
1,000 to 1,999 acres	7 499	8 740	10 013	10 042	11 133	11 332	11 343	10 635
2,000 acres or more	6 141	5 690	4 994	4 617	4 035	3 789	3 157	2 573
Total cropland farms..	27 994	28 967	33 179	34 693	38 936	41 301	44 581	47 748
..... acres..	27 024 895	27 469 875	28 208 099	28 115 546	28 605 578	29 185 095	29 458 878	27 445 689
Harvested cropland farms..	25 153	27 804	32 360	34 031	38 388	40 643	43 606	47 070
..... acres..	20 438 149	19 216 531	18 363 910	20 308 135	18 978 609	19 207 401	17 174 891	17 695 162
Irrigated land farms..	710	816	809	762	792	510	480	442
..... acres..	180 362	187 212	168 013	162 643	141 434	70 891	63 238	50 548
Market value of agricultural products sold ² \$1,000..	2 869 322	2 745 752	2 188 158	2 294 326	1 784 315	1 802 791	748 910	570 465
Average per farm dollars..	94 064	88 223	62 007	62 977	44 213	42 210	16 146	11 681
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	2 193 672	2 030 900	1 497 212	1 759 871	1 288 731	1 438 258	480 535	374 050
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	675 649	714 852	690 946	534 455	495 583	364 496	268 337	196 249
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	4 164	2 139	2 260	2 092	1 890	2 267	5 154	5 879
\$2,500 to \$4,999	1 313	1 363	1 750	1 638	2 121	1 946	4 646	7 558
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2 104	2 191	2 982	2 786	3 989	3 975	9 995	15 388
\$10,000 to \$24,999	4 365	4 851	6 817	6 924	10 490			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4 558	5 399	7 725	8 256	11 068	31 157	26 226	19 777
\$50,000 to \$99,999	5 341	6 502	7 808	8 395	7 333			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	7 961	8 165	5 701	6 088	3 312		313	
\$500,000 or more	698	513	246	227	122	98	15	209
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship)	26 660	27 093	31 153	31 742	35 328	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	3 075	3 504	3 692	4 338	4 769	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	551	349	293	185	131	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	218	177	151	166	129	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	15 176	16 741	19 542	19 126	22 675	21 051	(NA)	(NA)
Any	12 837	11 827	13 137	13 058	15 070	10 568	17 351	15 137
200 days or more	6 135	4 916	5 295	4 814	5 034	3 617	4 871	3 365
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	22 677	25 189	29 031	30 592	34 086	38 191	(NA)	(NA)
Other	7 827	5 934	6 258	5 839	6 271	4 331	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	51.4	50.0	48.3	47.3	47.9	49.9	48.9	48.1
Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000..	2 453 342	2 090 938	1 846 305	(NA)	(NA)	1 012 918	548 345	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	106 412	143 982	128 202	103 704	107 496	74 226	55 730	43 923
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000..	125 867	104 335	75 149	72 876	61 321	71 899	28 733	25 655
Commercial fertilizer ⁵ \$1,000..	306 933	200 797	178 957	159 111	150 712	90 055	30 527	16 775
Petroleum products \$1,000..	186 278	181 040	176 838	253 781	139 682	102 766	59 009	56 414
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	122 283	99 790	92 847	76 864	70 743	47 723	32 911	25 016
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	234 100	213 388	214 381	306 237	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁵ \$1,000..	217 605	161 765	143 598	116 882	70 412	27 962	8 108	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	14 232	15 183	17 154	18 548	20 733	25 364	27 645	35 439
..... number..	1 810 409	1 723 920	1 873 839	1 886 961	1 893 212	2 403 690	2 031 144	2 465 348
Beef cows farms..	12 744	13 216	14 414	15 585	17 488	21 891	(NA)	27 762
..... number..	920 559	837 716	886 585	874 660	894 999	1 191 137	962 654	937 300
Milk cows farms..	1 170	1 925	2 839	3 689	4 724	6 699	11 267	21 329
..... number..	54 024	74 885	96 366	102 660	101 166	111 452	135 798	228 538
Cattle and calves sold farms..	14 426	15 249	17 428	18 656	21 099	25 585	28 262	35 256
..... number..	1 055 343	978 947	1 106 924	1 018 516	1 099 421	1 211 138	1 235 824	1 130 452
Hogs and pigs inventory ... farms..	797	1 932	2 365	2 506	3 818	5 610	7 566	12 567
..... number..	197 372	346 082	294 427	260 160	328 025	352 017	295 027	341 931
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms..	814	2 033	2 412	2 619	3 873	6 032	7 518	10 378
..... number..	374 733	603 910	500 107	447 738	538 492	657 932	499 822	519 575
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	549	838	1 670	2 542	3 711	5 891	8 536	19 382
..... number..	201 684	278 090	277 614	429 469	520 842	739 329	915 440	1 929 745
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	83	160	305	290	365	421	156	5
..... number..	193 401	38 573	52 677	35 402	43 911	73 998	22 679	32 550

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years—Con.

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All farms	1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed farms..	2 812	3 353	5 313	3 325	2 489	1 899	2 240	3 782
acres..	578 953	595 347	533 379	522 122	298 245	165 806	128 973	187 331
bushels..	54 996 430	37 487 419	46 983 098	34 122 728	20 262 366	7 973 992	7 298 676	5 355 011
Wheat for grain farms..	19 488	22 918	28 245	29 277	34 170	37 288	40 685	43 556
acres..	10 874 126	10 627 608	8 778 869	9 818 946	9 561 795	10 189 207	6 935 977	6 266 949
bushels..	260 522 260	409 882 271	248 678 425	295 849 566	268 471 784	209 162 432	202 205 974	146 485 995
Barley for grain farms..	9 565	13 979	20 825	12 271	16 929	(NA)	(NA)	29 861
acres..	2 178 700	2 388 696	2 690 972	1 808 815	2 396 811	(NA)	(NA)	2 479 849
bushels..	98 641 946	142 747 145	120 600 254	91 873 953	106 289 743	(NA)	(NA)	79 608 658
Oats for grain farms..	4 937	7 843	9 748	12 987	15 523	(NA)	(NA)	33 252
acres..	423 877	557 388	657 196	963 922	1 076 412	(NA)	(NA)	1 980 592
bushels..	18 616 546	33 414 633	31 162 857	47 655 524	53 745 033	(NA)	(NA)	82 084 914
Sunflower seed farms..	5 069	5 287	7 043	11 703	6 554	(NA)	(NA)	322
acres..	1 347 376	1 130 593	1 407 115	3 115 317	1 624 229	(NA)	(NA)	16 468
pounds..	1 678 505 673	1 260 442 267	1 916 363 928	3 245 244 028	2 024 066 499	(NA)	(NA)	8 478 272
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms..	14 707	15 695	17 956	19 094	22 815	26 211	25 682	(NA)
acres..	2 702 807	2 467 853	2 635 435	2 654 859	2 998 651	3 494 228	2 696 394	3 367 074
tons, dry..	3 765 662	3 267 324	4 030 165	4 190 010	4 914 517	4 567 783	3 691 724	3 932 342

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

³Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

⁴Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships.

⁵Data for 1964 to 1982 do not include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals include the cost of lime for 1969 to 1978.

⁶Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

⁷Data for 1969 to 1992 are for chickens 3 months old or older inventory; data for 1964 are for chickens 4 months old or older.